Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे

# ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

## GENERAL STUDIES / सामान्य अध्ययन

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Name Of Candidate**<br>परीक्षार्थी का नाम | Gauran Chopra | | |
| **Roll No./अनुक्रमांक** | 1910111207 | **Medium/माध्यम** | English ✓  हिंदी ☐ |
| **Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र** | 1901 | **Date/दिनांक** | 10-09-25 |

*Center Code : For Online – 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh – 1901, ORN – 1902, Mukharji Nagar – 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. – 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar – 2101

| INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका | | | INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Q. No.**<br>प्र.सं. | **Max. Marks**<br>अधिकतम अंक | **Marks Obtained**<br>प्राप्तांक | |
| 1 | | | **1.** Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. |
| 2 | | | कृपया उत्तर–पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें। |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | | | **2.** There are **TWENTY** questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI, all |
| 5 | | | questions are compulsory. |
| 6 | | | उत्तर पुस्तिका में अंग्रेजी / हिंदी में **बीस** प्रश्न दिए गए हैं, सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं। |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | **3.** The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. |
| 9 | | | प्रत्येक प्रश्न / भाग के लिए निर्धारित अंक उसके सामने अंकित किए गए हैं। |
| 10 | | | |
| 11 | | | **4.** Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission |
| 12 | | | Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question- |
| 13 | | | Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. |
| 14 | | | उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में |
| 15 | | | इस प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना |
| 16 | | | चाहिए। |
| 17 | | | |
| 18 | | | **5.** Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page |
| 19 | | | or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet |
| 20 | | | must be clearly Struck off. |
| **Total/कुल अंक** | **250** | | प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाए। प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गये किसी भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काट दें। |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Examiner's Discretion/मूल्यांकन कर्त्ता का विवेक :** | **For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु** |

| **Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :** | **End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :** |
|---|---|
| 9:30 Pay | 12:00 PM |

| **Total Marks/कुल अंक :** | **Mode Of Examination/**<br>परीक्षा की विधि : | Online/ऑनलाइन ☐<br>Offline/ऑफलाइन ✓ |
|---|---|---|

*Examiner's Discretion is the marks awarded at the discretion of the examiner based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy.

मूल्यांकन कर्त्ता का विवेक अंक, आपकी लिखावट, प्रस्तुति, आरेखों के उपयोग, फ़्लोचार्ट, तथ्यों और आंकड़ों या समग्र रूप किसी अन्य विषय वस्तु, जो मूल्यांकन कर्त्ता को आपकी कॉपी में पसंद आयी के आधार पर (लेकिन इन्हीं तक सीमित नहीं) पर दिए गए अंक हैं।

| **For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **ECN CODE/**<br>ईसीएन कोड : | **EG/ईजी :**<br>① ② ③ ④ ⑤ | **Evaluation Date/**<br>मूल्यांकन तिथि : |

**Note:** Students are expected to incorporate suggestions from the feedback provided in the answers. Discussion classes for the tests are also available online in your portal to aid in your preparation. Further, students are requested to see the good copies of the tests and learn from them. You can also discuss your copy with a Mentor and discover ways and means to improve your answers, or if you have any issues with this test / copy. Ask specific questions, to get specific answers.

## EXAMINER'S REMARKS

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(Don't Write anythin
in this Area / इस स्थ
पर कुछ न लिखें)

Q.1) What is a 'Census'? Discuss the importance of Census for the economy and policy making.
(10 marks, 150 words)

'जनगणना' क्या है? अर्थव्यवस्था और नीति निर्माण के लिए जनगणना के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Census, in India, refers to Dicennial practice of enumeration of citizens and their various socio-economic indicators. The last census happened in [2011] with the upcoming in [2026].

Census is under the [Union List] and is done by Registrar General.

Features of upcoming Census → First Fully Digital census
→ Contains Caste Census
→ Provide for self-enumeration.

The upcoming census is designed to overcome the limitations faced in the socio-economic Caste Census (SECC), 2011.

Importance of Census → Economy 4 Policy Making

① Data Driven Policy making : census provides the micro-data → needed for effective design.

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② Provides information for socio-economic indicators of citizen → help in better [Tax] Planning and expanding Tax base.

③ Determine demography of the country - age structure, spatial distribution for policy making.

④ Helps in Expenditure Planning and Budgeting for different regions and groups of citizens.

⑤ Social Sector Planning : is undertaken with the help of census → information about health, education. etc.

Issues with Census
→ Poor data collection
→ duplication of data
→ Poorly trained enumerators.
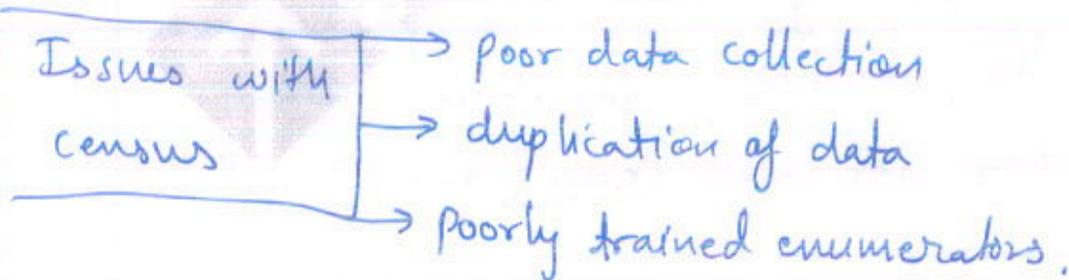
To combat the above issues, upcoming Census would be participative and digitally enabled census.

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**Q.2)** Assess the role of NITI Aayog over the past decade in transforming the country's approach to planning and development. (10 marks, 150 words)

देश के नियोजन और विकास के दृष्टिकोण को बदलने में पिछले दशक में नीति आयोग की भूमिका का आकलन करें।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

NITI Aayog was made in 2015 by a government notification to replace the erstwhile <u>Planning Commission</u>.

Earlier approach to Planning and Development
- → Domination of Centre
- → Planning Commission - decides funding
- → Top-Down policy making.
- → Lack of Participation from states
- → Planning - a 'sporadic' task - every 5 years
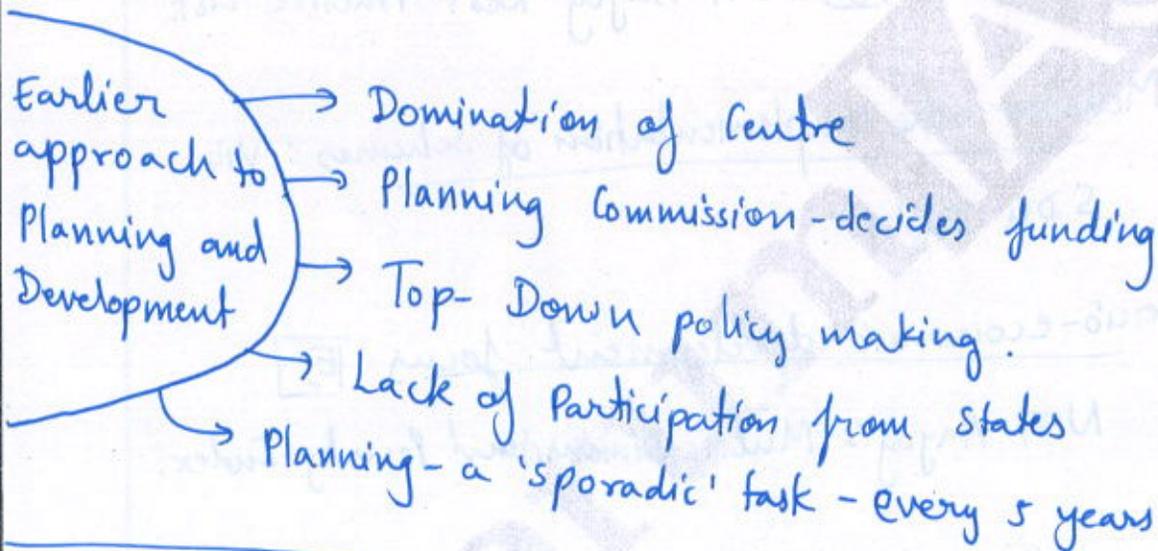
<u>Transformation by NITI Aayog</u>

① <u>Enabled Participative planning</u> : Team India Hub consisting of PM, CM of all states.

② Horizontal and Vertical integration : creation of various <u>verticals</u> to enable specialisation and coordination.

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③ Development of schemes such as Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).

④ Bottom up approach with sharing of best practices. [Eg] NITI Aayog Best Practice List.

⑤ Monitor the implementation of schemes : Via SDG Index.

⑥ Socio-economic development focus : [Eg] NITI Aayog's Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index.

⑦ Long Term strategy and vision [Eg] Niti Aayog's India at 75 vision.

⑧ Enable Competitive federalism : [Eg] Composite Waste Mgmt Index (CWMI) and Ease of Doing Business - State Rankings.

Thus, NITI aayog's [advisory role] has shifted India's Planning and development to role-focused.

**Q.3)** Discuss various measures taken by the Government to strengthen the Cooperative movement and ensure "Sahakar Se Samriddhi". (10 marks, 150 words)

सहकारी आंदोलन को सशक्त करने और "सहकार से समृद्धि"सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए विभिन्न उपायों पर चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Year 2025 was declared as International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) by UNGA, in recognition of the role of cooperatives in pursuing inclusive growth and development.

## Various Measures taken to strengthen Cooperatives

① **Fundamental Right**: formation of association and cooperatives is a fundamental right under Article 19 (1).

② **Ministry of Cooperation**: separate ministry to promote cooperatives, headed by the Home Minister.

③ **Regulatory Measures**: Cooperative Bank under the dual supervision of RBI and Registrar of cooperatives.

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④ Multi-State Cooperatives Act : by the union to promote democratic functioning of the multi-state cooperatives.

⑤ Promotion to Dairy Cooperatives and FPOs:
   [Eg] Operation Flood and AMUL.

⑥ Creation of large Cooperatives for farmers like seeds based. etc.

## Analysis of the above measures

### Positives
→ enabled growth of cooperative movement.
→ India among the countries with largest no. of co-op.
→ Better regulation of cooperative Banking.

### Negatives
→ Cooperative Banks scam : Aadarsh Cooperative
→ Politicisation of cooperatives
→ Lack of inner democracy → controlled by few.

   India must holistically upgrade its cooperative Structure to combat the above negatives.

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**Q.4)** India remains significantly dependent on imports to meet its pulses demand. Examine the key challenges in achieving self-reliance in pulses. Also, mention the major government initiatives taken in this regard. (10 marks, 150 words)

भारत अपनी दलहन की माँग को पूरा करने के लिए आयात पर काफी हद तक निर्भर है। दलहन में आत्मनिर्भरता प्राप्त करने में आने वाली प्रमुख चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में उठाए गए प्रमुख सरकारी कदमों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

India is the largest producer, consumer and importer of pulses in the world, with its importing 20-30% of its annual demands.

Major imports and nations → Tur : China.
→ Gram : South Asia
→ Moong : Egypt

**Key Challenges in Achieving Atmanirbharta**

① **Cereal-Centric Agriculture System** : largest acreage towards production of Wheat and Rice.

② **Lack of higher MSP** : MSP is geared towards the rice-wheat system, disincentivise pulses.

③ **Poor Storage and connectivity** from ~~fork~~ farm to fork : lack of warehousing, cold-storage.

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पर कुछ न लिखें)

④ Huge wastage of Pulses : Shantakumar Committee : 30% of pulses wasted.

⑤ Lack of production : due to more competitive profits in horticulture, oilseeds.

⑥ Irrigation : 50% of agriculture is rainfall dependent. Major producer like MP, Rajasthan suffer from rain-deficit.

## Government Initiatives to promote Pulses

① Budget 2025 : Mission for Atmanirbharta in Pulses.

② Schemes like Kisan Rail, World Largest Storage Plan → for infrastructure and connectivity.

③ Higher MSP year-on-year ~~of~~ for Pulses.

④ Inclusion in PDS and Mid-Day meals by various states - Orissa, Jharkhand, etc.

Pulses are significant contributer towards overcoming Protein-deficiency and thus need to be promoted.

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**Q.5)** What is a 'Black box'? Explain its significance in flight safety and airplane crash investigations.
(10 marks, 150 words)

'ब्लैक बॉक्स' क्या है? उड़ान सुरक्षा और वायुयान दुर्घटना परीक्षण में इसके महत्व का वर्णन कीजिए।    (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Black Box has recently become prominent due to its role in uncovering the incidences of Ahmedabad Aircraft crash, 2025.

A Black Box refers to a data collector and preserver under which all the data related to flight is stored.

Data within Black Box
→ sound recordings of Pilot
→ data about flight control.
→ State of flight and aircraft → fuels, motors, etc.

Role in flight Safety and airplane crash investigations

① Aircraft crash sometimes obliterate complete airplane. Blackbox can provide clue to the reasons behind it.

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पर कुछ न लिखें )

② <u>Lack of Survivors</u> : Aircraft tradegies
sometimes leave no survivors. Black box
help as a reliant tool.

③ Contain information about flight
control movement.

④ Help in establishing <u>timeline of the</u>
events.

⑤ Help in <u>preventing further</u> crashes
by providing information about reasons.

⑥ Ensure data based <u>policy making</u> for
aircraft security.

  Thus, Black Box provides pivotal
role in protecting aircraft safety and
preventing crashes.

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पर कुछ न लिखें )

Q.6) How does NISAR mission exemplify international cooperation in space exploration and scientific research? In what ways will it help in climate change monitoring and natural hazard management?
(10 marks, 150 words)

NISAR मिशन अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण और वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग का उदाहरण कैसे प्रस्तुत करता है? यह जलवायु परिवर्तन की निगरानी और प्राकृतिक आपदा प्रबंधन में किस तरह से मदद करेगा? (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

NISAR Mission (NASA-ISRO Apperture Radar) refers to the satellite jointly developed by NASA and ISRO to study earth's climate.

Internatianal Cooperatian in exploratian & research

① Joint Development ⟨ NASA → L Band
                      ISRO → s Band.

② Assembled and manufactured in USA but sent is space by ISRO.

③ Most expensive and technologically advanced exploratian and observatian satelite.

④ Operates in twin frequency → acquire even smallest detail upto 10 cm on earth's surface.

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NISAR → Climate Change Monitoring & Hazard Management

① Provide information about ~~cryogenics~~ cryosphere glacial melting, snow and albedo.

② Information about Land use change, deforestation, desertification, etc.

③ Provide data about oxygen levels in ocean, phyto plankton growth, etc.

④ Atmospheric composition → change in gases, pollutants, etc.

⑤ Monitoring storms via focusing on cyclone formation.

⑥ Oversee changes in weather phenomena.

⑦ Guide resources management during disasters.

Thus, NISAR plays an important role in boosting international collaboration for climate change.

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**Q.7)** While oceans are considered among mankind's best allies in the fight against climate change, they are themselves heavily impacted by the same. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

जबकि महासागरों को जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ़ लड़ाई में मानव जाति के सबसे अच्छे सहयोगियों में से एक माना जाता है, वे स्वयं भी इससे बहुत प्रभावित हैं। चर्चा करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

70% of the earth's surface is covered by the ocean - making them our ally as well as the issue in mitigating climate change.

**Ocean → best ally in Climate change**

① <u>Carbon dioxide absorption</u> → 90% of excess $CO_2$ in atmosphere is absorbed by $CO_2$.

② <u>Contains repository of methane hydrates</u> locked below ocean surface.

③ <u>Source of Poly metallic nodules</u> → important for critical minerals for renewable tech.

④ <u>Renewable energy</u> → solar panels an ocean, offshore wind turbines, OTEC plants provide renewable and green energy.

Heavily impacted by Climate Change

① Ocean Acidification → due to greater absorption of Carbon dioxide.

② Ocean Heat waves → leading to damage to ocean's ecology.

③ Marine Pollution → microplastics, eutrophication, fertiliser runoffs.

④ Ice melting → leading to sea level change and changes in oceanography.

⑤ Marine Species → like corals → more sensitive to climate change.

⑥ Extreme weather events → coastal surges, storms on oceans, etc.

Thus, need to make ocean a partner in climate change and to mitigate its impact, to achieve SDG 14.

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Q.8) "Disasters cannot be managed by a single agency, department, or ministry on its own. It requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach." Elucidate. (10 marks, 150 words)

"आपदाओं का प्रबंधन किसी एक एजेंसी, विभाग या मंत्रालय द्वारा अकेले नहीं किया जा सकता। इसके लिए संपूर्ण सरकार और संपूर्ण समाज के दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता होती है।" स्पष्ट करें। (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Disaster Management Act has created the Management architecture for Disasters by putting NDMA at its central role.

Cannot be managed by single agency, department or ministry on its own

① Inter-sectoral linkages : disasters impact Society, economy, governance → need holtic approach

② Huge geographic size of India necessitates Coordination between different states.

③ Lack of Capacity : a single agency will be Overburdened by the volume and varicty of disasters.

④ Huge cost in managing disastors require coordinated push to manage resource efficiency during disasters.

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पर कुछ न लिखें )

Disaster Management → Require whole-of-Govt approach

① Coordinated efforts of all ministries → overseen
by Ministry of Home affairs.

② Creation of different departments to oversee
specific disasters.

③ Coordination between centre, state and local
govt to coordinate resources.

④ Convergence of efforts of NDMA, SDMA
and DDMA to pursue management strategy.

Disaster Management → Whole-of Society Approach

① Participation of Corporate stakeholders. [Eg] Tata AID.

② Community engagement → as per NDMA [60%]
of rescue in earthquake is done by locals.

③ Creating a culture of safety in society
via mock drills. etc.

④ Teaching disaster management in schools.

Disaster cost 8% of GDP and thus
require whole-of-country approach to counter them.

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Q.9) The convergence of organized crime and terrorism presents a formidable challenge to the country's internal security. Analyse.                                    (10 marks, 150 words)

संगठित अपराध और आतंकवाद का संमिलन देश की आंतरिक सुरक्षा के लिए एक विकट चुनौती प्रस्तुत करता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।                                                    (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Organised ~~Crime~~ and Terrorism are converging to form a singular identity.
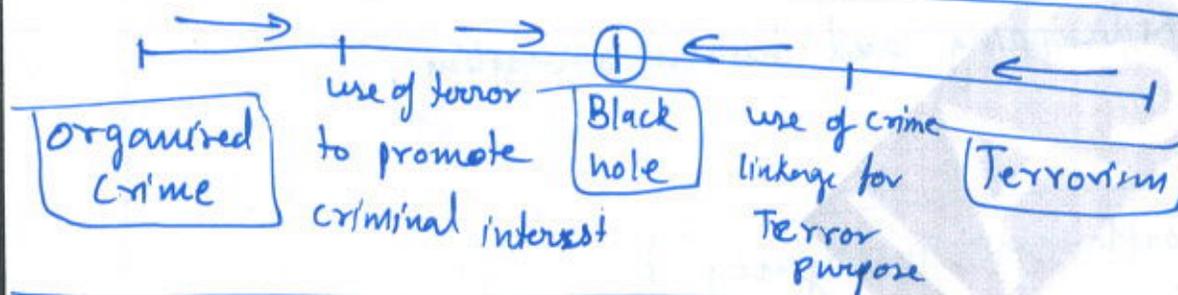


Factors behind linkages

→ Similar activities and methods → violence

→ Require similar condition to sustain → unemployment

→ Convergence of interest → weak law & order

Convergence → formidable challenge to security.

① Jammu & Kashmir

→ use of Fake currency notes by terrorism

→ Drugs and smuggling by IsI -backed groups.

→ explosives and intelligence by criminal groups.

→ Providing arms and ammunitions.

② Left Wing Extremism

→ Hawala networks and extortion by Naxals

→ Gun-running and poppy-farming.

→ Kidnapping and human smuggling.

③ North-east insurgency

→ facilitating cross-border infiltration.

→ acting as mules for drug smuggling.

→ security to opium farmers.

Other Challenges due to convergence

→ support to bomb blasts by D company.

→ Piracy operations → supported by terrorists.

→ Organised crime facilitate access to routes.

To counter above

→ require stringent Laws → BNs on organised crime

→ coordinate approach → NATGRID, MAC, NIA.

→ information sharing → interpol, CBI, etc.

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Q.10) In an era of complex security challenges, examine the ways in which the private sector can contribute to strengthening India's internal security.                    (10 Marks, 150 Words)

जटिल सुरक्षा चुनौतियों के इस युग में, उन तरीकों का परीक्षण कीजिए जिनसे निजी क्षेत्र भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा को सुदृढ़ बनाने में योगदान दे सकता है।                    (10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

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**Q.11)** Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a transfer of surplus to the Union Government for the financial year 2024–25. What does 'surplus' mean in this context? How does the RBI generate it, and what is its significance for the country's fiscal policy? **(15 marks, 250 words)**

हाल ही में, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) ने वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए केंद्र सरकार को अधिशेष राशि हस्तांतरित करने की घोषणा की है। इस संदर्भ में 'अधिशेष' का क्या अर्थ है? RBI किस तरह इसका सृजन करता है, और देश की राजकोषीय नीति के लिए इसका क्या महत्व है? **(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)**

Recently, RBI transferred the largest 'surplus' to the government of India for the year 2024-25.

Meaning of Surplus

→ Surplus refers to the higher profits accumulated by RBI. RBI performs various functions like printing of currency, giving loans to commercial banks. etc.

→ These activities generate profit, which is deemed as 'surplus'.

→ As the Union government owns the RBI, as its shareholders, RBI transfers the excess surplus to govt after making provisions.
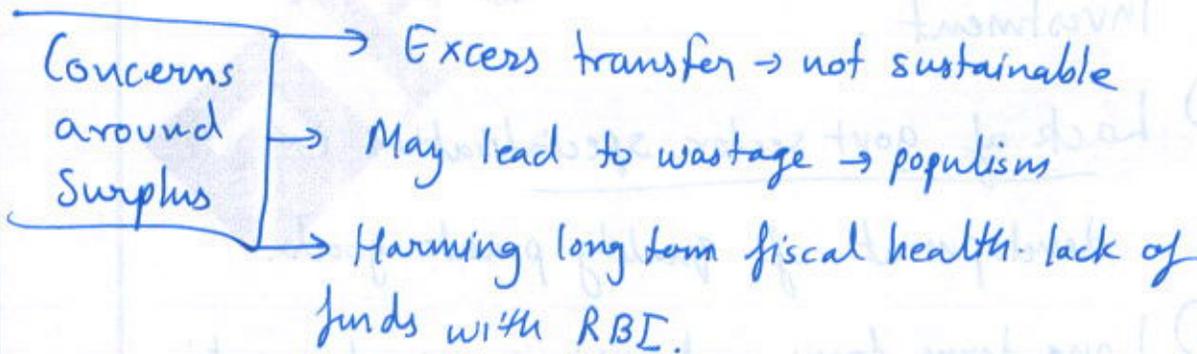
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# Generation of 'Surplus' by RBI

① Segniorage : Currency printing cost
for ₹ 2000 is 1-3 , so the excess
value of currency accumulates with RBI.

② Loan given to Commercial Banks via
Repo Transactions - generate Interest.

③ Loans given to foreign institutions, banks,
etc.

④ RBI's deposits with other nations → Interest.

⑤ RBI's Loans to union government and
State governments .

## Significance of Surplus for fiscal Policy

① Expand the fiscal capacity of Centre :
through more funds from RBI.

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② Greater expenditure for infrastructure and social sector spending via surplus

③ Reducing fiscal deficit of the government.

④ Reduces debt to GDP and ensures fiscal sustainability of ~~RBI~~ govt.

⑤ Reduces dependence of loans for the govt and prevents crowding-out by privates.

⑥ In line with achieving targets of FRBM Act.

Concerns around Surplus
→ Excess transfer → not sustainable

→ May lead to wastage → populism

→ Harming long term fiscal health - lack of funds with RBI.

The RBI Act 1934 contains stringent provisions to protect RBI's autonomy and prevent the above concerns.

Q.12) Examine the role of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in the development of ports in India.

(15 Marks, 250 words)

भारत में बंदरगाहों के विकास में सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी (PPP) मॉडल की भूमिका का परीक्षण करें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Public Private Partnership (PPP) refers to the agreement of supply of public goods or facilities by the private parties or corporates. [Eg] Mundra Port developed by PPP - Adani.

## Need of PPP model in Port development

① Huge expenditure needs : high capital investment.

② Lack of govt sector specialisation in development of quality private goods.

③ Long term focus and mission mode work: private is more suitable → need profits to survive.

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## Significance of PPP Model in Port Development

① Private Sector Efficiency : reducing the turnaround time at ports : [eg] Adani's Mundra Port.

② Increasing quality of service : via incorporating the latest technology available to the private sector.

③ Reputational need of Private sector leads them to provide best work.

④ Economical : private sector pursuing Post development at economic cost.
   [eg] Development of JNPT.

⑤ Minimum Govt, Maximum governance : requires Ease of doing business → greater role of Private sector.

## Concerns with PPP model for Ports.

① <u>Profit Maximisation</u> strategy leads to compromise with ~~cost~~ quality.

② <u>Rising costs</u> due to project overruns.

③ Poor <u>quality of services</u> due to lack of effective check.

④ <u>Allegations of Crony Capitalism</u>: acquisition of ASPEZ by Adani.

⑤ <u>Issues with PPP contract</u>: long term lease, etc.

To tackle above challenges:

① Clarification of Public Sector role
→ Designing Broad plan
→ getting EIA clearance
→ Ensure long term sustainability.

② Focus on Private Sector role
→ Maintaining cost competitive
→ Producing quality service
→ Timely completion.

Sagarmala Scheme also promotes role of PPP in port development.

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Q.13) "Legalizing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) would create more challenges than it resolves." Comment. (15 marks, 250 words)

"न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP) को वैध बनाने से समाधान की अपेक्षा अधिक चुनौतियाँ उत्पन्न होंगी।" टिप्पणी कीजिए।
(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Minimum Support Price (MSP) refers to the provision of setting minimum price by the government below which a trader cannot acquire farmers' produce.

**Working of MSP**

→ Determining MSP via CCAC. based on A2+FL

→ CCAC gives suggestion to Union government.

→ Govt announces MSP before sowing season.

**Benefits of Legalising MSP → resolve challenges**

① Increase Farmers' income : NSSO says farmer's average income is ₹10000.

② Statutory Backing : ensure guarantee of remunerative price during bumper harvest.

③ Protects Farmers : from making distress sale.

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④ Ensure sustainability of MSP regime: present adhoc system → raising MSP to suit political interests.

⑤ Ensure Judicial oversight : by giving legal force to MSP.

⑥ ~~Detter~~ Deter Traders and APMC to coercive distress sale to farmer.

Legalising MSP → create more challenges

① Unsustainable : legalising MSP would entail creation of provisions by govt → huge cost.

② Low procurement capacity of govt: FCI godowns and stocks are in surplus.

③ Wastage of farmers' produce : due to lack of warehouse by govt.

④ Increase cost of agriculture → harmful to consumers.

⑤ Violates WTO : MSP itself is a Red Box subsidy → distort agricultural market.

⑥ Increase inequality : [Eg] Ashok kumar committee says only 6% of farmers get MSP benefits.

⑦ Delay in procurement due to greater judicial oversight.

⑧ Does not increase farmer income holistically as MSP benefits only limited basket of commodities like cereals and pulses

The Way Ahead:

① Implementing 'Doubling the Farmer Income' report of Ashok Dalwai.

② focusing on infrastructure → warehouse, cold storage

③ Improve connectivity → [Eg] Kisan Rail, PMGSY.

④ Promote livestock farming, horticulture. mariculture

　　　　Above steps would go a long way in increasing farmers income.

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Q.14) Why does India's agricultural export performance remain weak despite high production levels? What measures would you suggest to improve agri-export competitiveness?     (15 marks, 250 words)

उच्च उत्पादन स्तर के बावजूद भारत का कृषि निर्यात प्रदर्शन कमजोर क्यों है? कृषि-निर्यात प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता में सुधार के लिए आप क्या उपाय सुझाएँगे?
(15  अंक, 250 शब्द)

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**Q.15)** How the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) can help India in its socio-economic development? Identify the hurdles in its large-scale adoption and suggest corrective measures.

(15 marks, 250 words)

कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) का अनुप्रयोग भारत के सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास में किस प्रकार सहायक हो सकता है? इसके व्यापक पैमाने पर अपनाने में आने वाली बाधाओं की पहचान कीजिए और सुधारात्मक उपाय सुझाइए। (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the ability of the computer to think and process information like humans do. Eg Chat-GPT generates Art work.
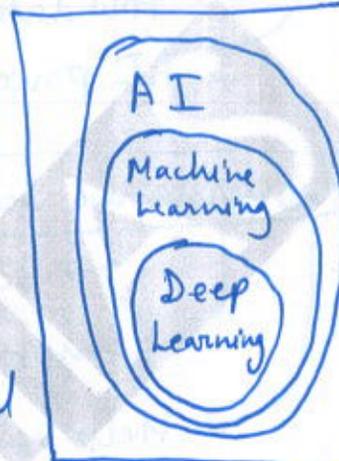
AI → is based on Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) → capacity to think like humans.

[Diagram: AI containing Machine Learning containing Deep Learning]

---

Applications of AI → socio-economic development

---

① Health Sector → pre-diagnostic tools.
→ decoding Protein structures.
   Eg Alpha fold.
→ personalised health plans.
→ Vaccine discovery and anti-biotics.

② Education Sector → enable digital education.
→ Personalised e-education.
→ improve learning outcomes Eg Bhasini →
   AI translation.

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③ Economic Sector → promote automated manufacturing
→ Increase GDP by 8-10%. (NASSCOM).
→ improve productivity of labour.
→ Foundation of IR 4.0, big data analysis.
AI powered Kisan drones.

④ Governance Sector → identify tax aviodance
→ Better resource management.
→ Improve supply chain- logistics.
→ Help in decision making → processing
large data.

⑤ Skill Development → personalised gamification of
Training.
→ AI workforce → greater resilient.

## Hurdles in large-scale adoption

① Poorly trained workforce : exposing workforce
to job loss [eg] Infosys fired 14000 employees.

② Lack of indigenous LLM : western centric
AI → lack of effectiveness in Indian context.

**⤴Forum IAS**

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③ High Cost of GPU, AI professional, and AI infrastructure.

④ Lack of data to train AI on. AI requires huge amount of data.

⑤ Informalisation : 85% of workforce is engaged in informal sector → hurdle in adoption.

⑥ Limited Start-ups in deep tech sector like AI.

For Corrective Measures :

① Invest into Indigenous AI development →
   India AI Mission (₹15000) .

② Training and skill development → Future Skills
   Prime by NASSCOM.

③ Suitable AI governance → NITI Aayog's AI
   for All paper

④ Digitation Push : DILRMP.

          Data is the oil of AI. Need to generate
data of Indian-context to develop AI for
Socio-economic development.

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**Q.16)** What is a Geographical Indication (GI)? What are the legal frameworks governing it? How does it differ from a trademark? How can GI infringement be tackled? (15 marks, 250 words)

भौगोलिक संकेतक (GI) से क्या अभिप्राय है? इसे नियंत्रित करने वाले विधिक ढाँचे को स्पष्ट करें? यह ट्रेडमार्क से कैसे भिन्न है? GI उल्लंघन से कैसे निपटा जा सकता है? (15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

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**Q.17)** "Mangroves contribute significantly to the coastal economy and ecology, but they are threatened by numerous factors". Elaborate. Also, state the measures taken by the government for mangrove conservation and restoration. (15 Marks, 250 Words)

"मैंग्रोव तटीय अर्थव्यवस्था और पारिस्थितिकी में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देते हैं, लेकिन वे कई कारकों से खतरे में हैं"। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, मैंग्रोव संरक्षण और बहाली के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए उपायों के बारे में भी बताएँ।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

6% of India's region is composed of Mangrove forests. Mangroves refers to salt-tolerant species of trees growing in Tidal region.


Fig: Mangroves in India.
Kutch
Mumbai
Sundarbans
Odissa
A & N Islands
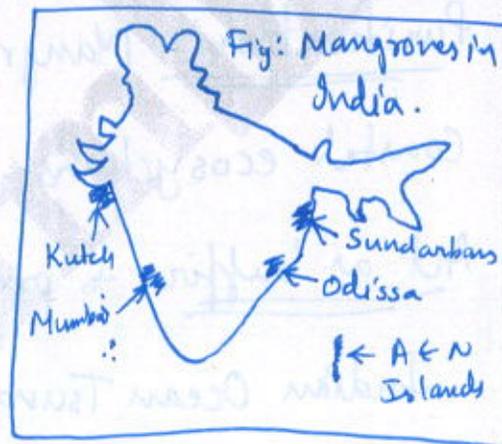
**Contribution to Coastal Economy**

① <u>Provisioning Service</u>: produce food, fibre and fuel for communities. [Eg] Sundari Trees in Sundarbans.

② <u>Provide avenues for Fishing</u>: Mangrove areas are breeding grounds of fishes.

③ <u>Tourism</u>: Mangrove forests acquire tourists.

④ <u>Energy</u>: forest fuels such as timber, etc.

⑤ Provide Coastal resilience during cyclone.

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## Contributions to Coastal ecology

① Protection of species. [Eg] Tigers hide in forests of Sunderbans.

② Ecological balance : integral part of Coastal ecosystem → home to Keystone species.

③ Purification : Mangroves are the kidneys of Coastal ecosystems.

④ Act as buffer to protect ecology. [Eg] 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

## Threats to Mangroves

① Deforestation : felling of trees for fuels.

② Coastal Encroachment : for creation of infrastructure.

③ Rising sea level due to global warming → submerge low-lying mangrove forest.

⤢ Forum IAS

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④ Dumping of harmful waste : in mangrove forests → leeching of metals.

⑤ Invasive species : [Eg] L. Camara can displace mangrove supporting species.

Measures taken by Govt.

① MISHTI Initiative : to promote mangrove forests → finance and support.

② NAPCC : to counter climate change and prevent global warming.

③ Reforestation initiatives : to prevent degradation of forests, mangrove regions.

④ Creation of Bio-barriers : to prevent pollution in mangrove forests.

Mangrove forests in India hold immense potential for protecting coastal economy and ecology. (SDG-14).

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Q.18) What is oil pollution? What are its impacts on the marine ecosystem? In what way is oil pollution particularly harmful for a country like India?

(15 marks, 250 words)

तेल प्रदूषण (ऑयल पोल्यूशन) क्या है? समुद्री पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र पर इसके क्या प्रभाव हैं? भारत जैसे देश के लिए तेल प्रदूषण किस प्रकार विशेष रूप से हानिकारक है?
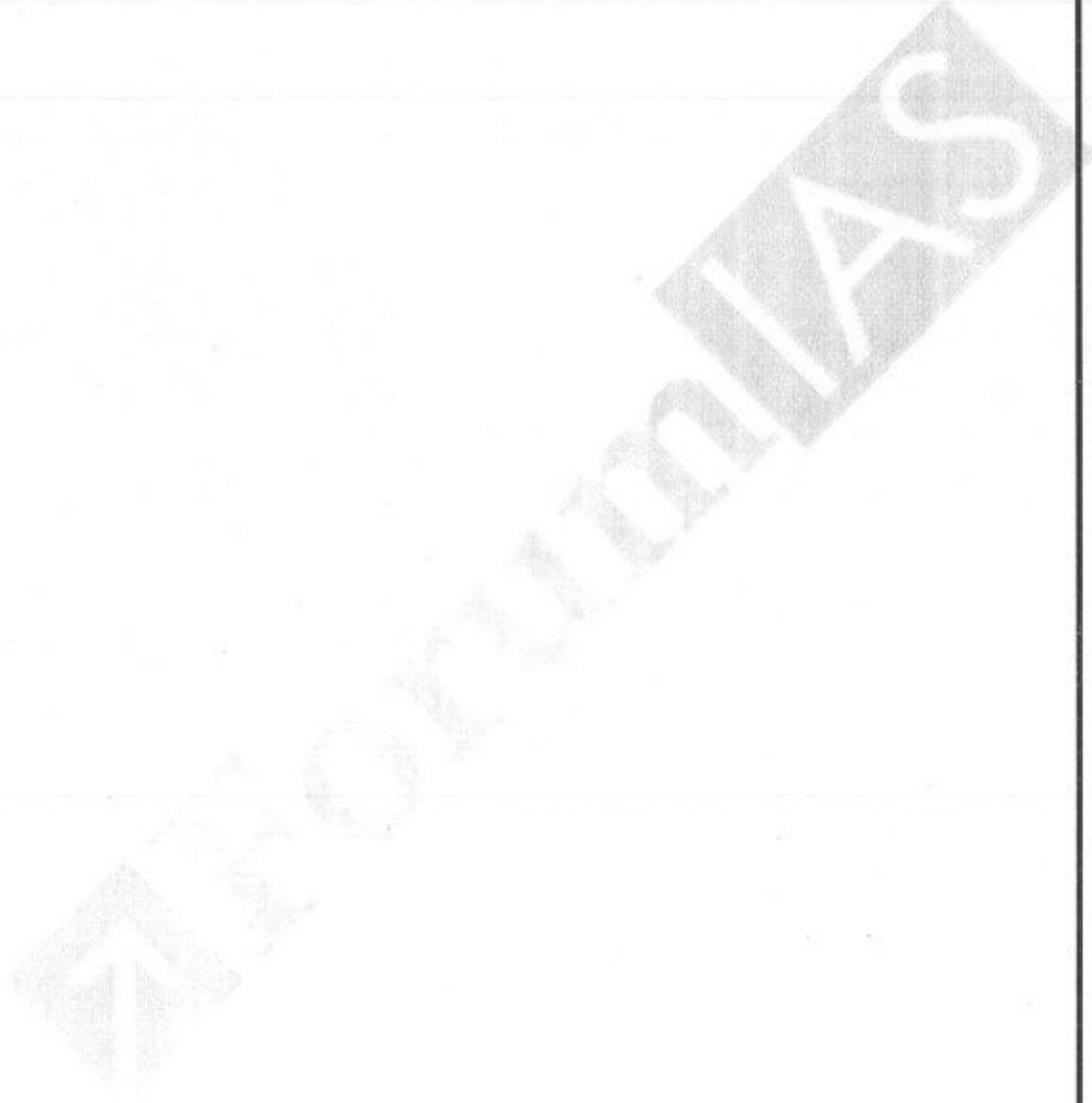
(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)
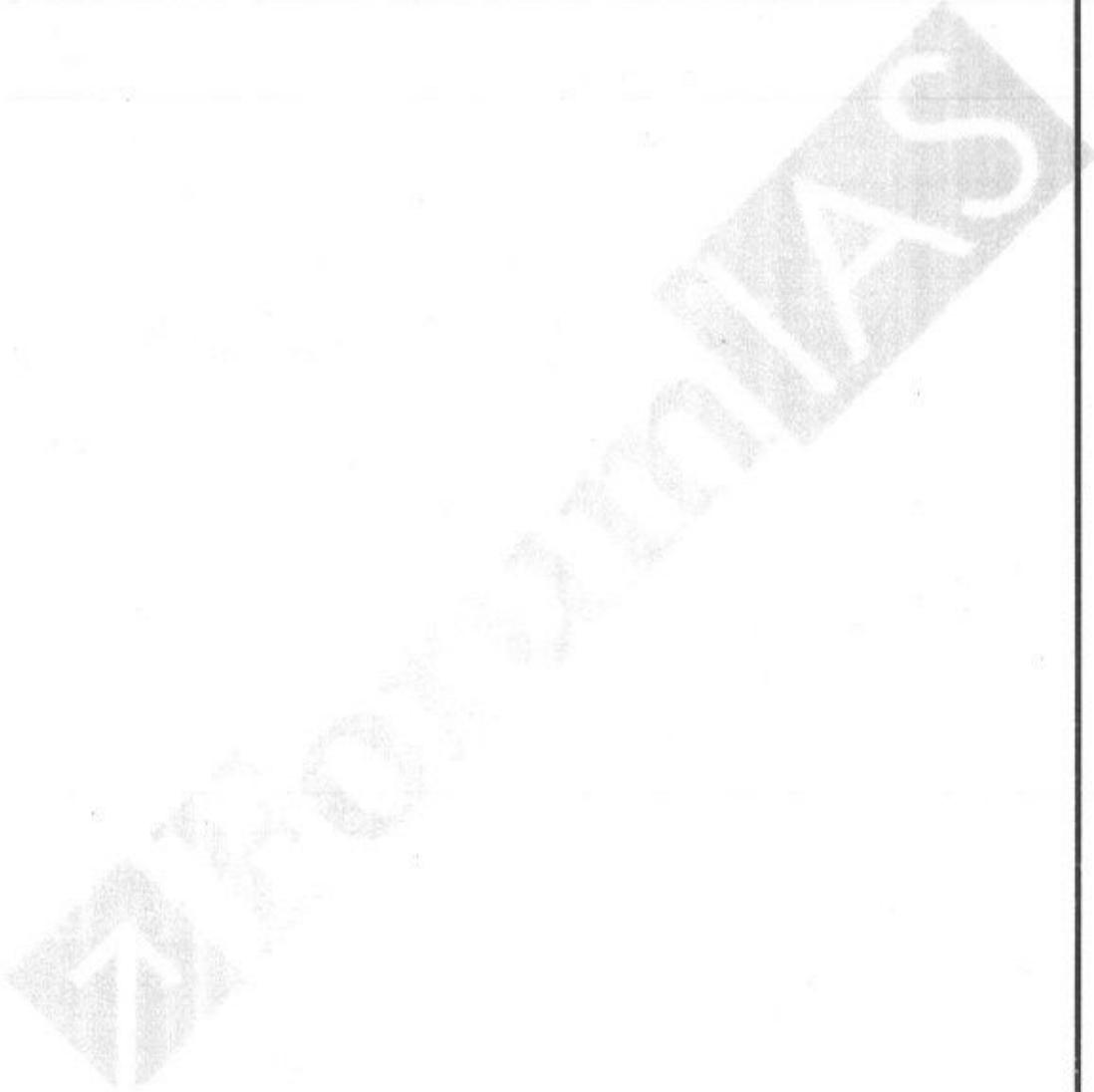
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**Q.19)** Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) have become an integral aspect of modern conflict and warfare, employed by both state and non-state actors. Discuss its implications for India's security architecture and state the measures being taken to address them. Also suggest other steps to tackle the threats emanating from UAVs. (15 marks, 250 words)

मानव रहित हवाई वाहन (UAVs) आधुनिक संघर्ष और युद्ध का अभिन्न अंग बन गए हैं, जिनका उपयोग राज्य और गैर-राज्य दोनों ही प्रकार के अभिकर्ता करते हैं। भारत की सुरक्षा संरचना के लिए इसके निहितार्थों पर चर्चा करें और उन्हें संबोधित करने के लिए किए जा रहे उपायों का वर्णन करें। UAVs से उत्पन्न होने वाले खतरों से निपटने के लिए अन्य कदम भी सुझाएँ।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

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**Q.20)** Maritime security challenges are complex, driven by both conventional and non-conventional threats. In this context, discuss the key maritime security challenges in India. Also, highlight the measures taken by the government in this regard. **(15 marks, 250 words)**

समुद्री सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ जटिल हैं, जो पारंपरिक और गैर-पारंपरिक दोनों तरह के खतरों से प्रेरित हैं। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में प्रमुख समुद्री सुरक्षा चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें। साथ ही, इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए उपायों पर प्रकाश डालें।

(15 अंक, 250 शब्द)

India has the coastline of 7500 KM Opening it to various threats and Marine security challenges.

## Maritime security Challenges

Conventional Threat

① Infiltration & illegal immigration : [Eg] 26/11 attackers entered via marine route.

② External State Actors : Pakistan's ISI ~~Seda~~ sending terrorists.

③ Marine Conflicts : [Eg] Fisherman conflicts with Sri Lanka.

④ Security Challenge : [Eg] Naval ships of China in Indian Ocean.

## Non - Conventional Threats

① Piracy Operations : [Eg] Houthis in Red Sea region.

② Smuggling and Contrabands: to escape customs → organised crime.

③ Drugs smuggling : [Eg] £ 40000 cocaine impounded in 2023 via sea route.

④ Spying : [Eg] Chinese spy-ship at Hambantota port.

## Measures taken by Government

① Triple Security Architecture

   (1.1) Police → at Coastal Areas.

   (1.2) Coastal Patrols → near ~~Coast~~. Coast

   (1.3) Indian Navy → High-seas.

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② Deploying of Satellite for Indian Navy Needs.

③ NATGRID, MAC → to facilitate inter-agency communication about security challenges.

④ Modernisation of Patrol Vehicles : for Coastal Guards.

⑤ Aircraft Carriers : Induction of INC Vikrant.

⑥ Project 15-A, B : to develop frigates, Corvettes.

⑦ ID cards for farmers and fishing boats.

India's maritime boundary is a source of economic opportunities as well as security challenges → need to protect it.

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**Test Goal**                                          **Outcomes**

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## Marking Scheme

| Mark | Good | Average | Below average |
|------|------|---------|---------------|
| 10 Marker | 3.75 – 5.0 | 3.0 – 3.5 | < 3.0 |
| 15 Marker | 5.75 – 7.0 | 4.0 – 5.5 | < 4.0 |
| 20 Marker | 7.75 - 10 | 6 - 7.5 | < 6 |
| ✔✔ | Key / Relevant Point | | |
| ✖ | Vague / Irrelevant | | |

\* Subject to change without prior notice.

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